



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OIL SHALE PROJECT OFFICE

764 Horizon Drive  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

U-25918

U-26194

Memorandum

December 7, 1983

To: Oil Shale Project Manager

From: John Miley, Mining Engineer

Subject: Tract U-a/U-b Inspection - Mining

Personnel Present: Bob Hobbs - WRSOC  
Don Johnson - OSPD  
John Miley - OSPD

### ACTIVITIES:

Mining. On December 5, 1983, a fire occurred in the oil shale pile when the round in the shaft bottom at 1000 ft depth was blasted. The fire was extinguished by flooding the pile with water. On December 7, 1983, the next round was blasted in the shaft bottom. The exhaust air from the shaft, measured at 57,000 cfm, was monitored for methane following the blast and was found to contain more than 0.25% methane. The shaft was deemed gassy by MSHA. All equipment being used in the shaft is permissible. A reversing switch was being installed on the ventilation fan.

It is surmised that the shale pile ignition occurred when the lower grade explosives used for the pre-splitting blast ignited methane in the shale pile which sustained flame long enough to ignite the raw shale.

The second ring of grout cover was being injected in the aquifer at the decline. There are four rings to be grouted to extend the decline through the Bird's Nest Aquifer.

xc: L. Ferguson, BLM Vernal  
D. Evans, BLM Vernal  
→ T. Portal, UDOGM  
B. Hobbs, U-a/U-b  
J. Godlove, U-a/U-b  
J. Goff, U-a/U-b

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DEC 13 1983

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

*John Miley*